CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213 (310) 659-0205
Dick Rosengarten, Publisher

FEB. 19, 1996

VOL. XVIII
No. 8

CAMPAIGN '96: JUDGING THE IMPACT ON CALIF. OF THE EARLY GOP PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES.

Editor's note: It's still too soon to say whether Calif.'s earlier-than-usual Mar. 26th presidential primary will make any difference in the overall selection process of the Republican presidential nominee. CALPEEK sources say much of what could happen in Calif. will depend on what takes place Feb. 20th in New Hampshire. Here's our analysis & commentary...

...There are literally dozens of different scenarios and spins. But here's what is obvious after Iowa: 1) You didn't need to be a rocket scientist to know that Texas U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm was *toast* after Iowa and would drop out; 2) most CALPEEK sources think many of Gramm's CA supporters, even the social conservatives, will take a ***wait & see*** stand on whether to support populist/hardliner Pat Buchanan, now a political force to be reckoned with; 3) millionaire publisher/flat-tax advocate Steve Forbes is in the race for the long haul, because he wants his day in the spotlight in San Diego where he can address RNC delegates; 4) former TN Gov. Lamar Alexander, who has almost no Calif. operation, could be the best positioned Republican to pick up the marbles should Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole falter; and 5) U.S. Rep. Bob Dornan of Orange Co. has no national following and had better start to think about his own 46th C.D. reelection bid...

...Back to Pat. An indication of Buchanan's appeal to hardline conservatives was evident in the results from the CA Republican Party's recent Straw Poll. Dole got 7,753 votes (36%); Buchanan 5,384 (25%); Forbes 3,876 (18%); & Gramm 1,948 (9%). There were 21,329 total ballots and it cost a minimum of $25 to cast a vote. Gramm's poor showing in Calif. and Buchanan's 2nd place surge surprised some insiders. But other say the handwriting was on the wall even before the CRP convention, after Buchanan's well-publicized upset win over Gramm in the GOP Louisiana Caucus on Feb. 6th...

...What happened to Gramm in Calif.? Same thing that happened nationally. Good funding, good organization, lots of early endorsements from conservatives, but he didn't deliver the message. Put another way, he was not comfortable and never connected with the religious right, even though his voting record was on target. Others say it was a weak message plus a mean/cold personality that turned GOP voters off...

...FYI: the political power of religious right and Buchanan's upward movement nationally may have one unintended consequence in Calif.: **Prop. 198** - the Open Primary initiative on the Mar. 26 ballot, which allows voters, regardless of party, to vote for any candidate. Buchanan has said he wants to ***rebuild*** the Republican Party in his image. That means no big tent. In light of Buchanan's comments, free market, pro-business Republicans could end up joining forces with socially moderate Republicans in supporting #198. At the very least, Buchanan's comments could cause big problems for CRP Chair John Herrington. Stay tuned...

CA ASSEMBLY RACES: A BRIEF LOOK AT 6 PRIMARIES.

Editor's note: This week CALPEEK will focus on 6 CA Assembly primaries. And we should point out that conventional wisdom doesn't mean much in a low voter turnout election. Here's our update & analysis...

☒ **23rd A.D.** - This seat in the Santa Clara Co. area should remain in Demo hands regardless of who wins the primary, but it's an interesting battle because the retiring incumbent, Dom Cortese, bolted the Demo Party to become the 1st *Reform Party* officeholder in CA. Dom's son, David, is in the primary and normally would be well-positioned to win this seat. But with his dad's defection, Demos may be looking for someone else. In

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the top tier are Santa Clara Co. Sup. Mike Honda and community college trustee Ken Yeager. Cortese is in the 2nd tier and school trustee Patricia Martinez-Roach is in the 3rd tier. All have savvy campaign mgt. teams: Honda (Richie Ross); Yeager (Carol Beddo); Cortese (Phil Giarrizzo); and Martinez-Roach (Leo Briones). CTA is neutral - all have solid education credentials, but the county's Central Labor Council endorsed both Yeager & Honda. Yeager is openly gay, but that's not an issue. Unlike his dad, David Cortese is pro-choice. ***Toss up*** between Honda and Yeager for now, with a possible breakthrough by either Cortese or Martinez-Roach, if she can mobilize her Hispanic/female base...

☒ **67th A.D.** - The Orange Co. Grand Jury was in session most of the day on Feb. 13th, with Laurie Campbell on the witness stand for most of the time. And it made news, which is NOT good for new GOP Assemblyman Scott Baugh. This wide-ranging probe by DA Mike Capizzi is looking into allegations of campaign dirty tricks and campaign reporting violations (Baugh took $8,800 in cash from a contributor) arising from the 67th A.D. recall of Doris Allen(R) last year. Still, our sources don't think Baugh is in any danger from GOP challengers Barbara Coe of YES on 187 fame or from Cypress Councilwoman Cecilia L. Age. However, if the unexpected should happen, all bets are off...

☒ **43rd A.D.** - Trying to handicap the GOP primary in this San Garbriel Valley district is all but impossible. We'll say it up front: ***a toss up***. Glendale Councilman Sheldon Baker was the first out with mail (an AV ballot application) and has good name ID in his home town. College Prof. John Geranios went from the ranks of the obscure to key player when he loaned his campaign $200,000 and hired McNally Temple. L.A. Co. Dep. DA Craig Missakian and LAPD Officer Peter Repovich have great ballot titles. And Peter Musurlian has positioned himself in "right field" and has won the endorsement of the CRA. In a low turnout primary, any one of these guys could win. There are 3 other GOPers in the race, but only James Regan is considered a threat because voters might confuse his name with the current incumbent, James Rogan. All of the top candidates except Musurlian have hired campaign consultants: Baker (Dave Gilliard); Repovich (Jim Nygren); Missakian (Harvey Englander)...

☒ **70th A.D.** - All CALPEEK sources say the same thing: freshman Assemblywoman Marilyn Brewer(R - Irvine) should be a *slam dunk* for reelection. BUT with the religious right on the move, we're keeping Brewer (who is pro-choice) on our watch list. Her two rivals, Marjorie Pantzar and business owner Jacob F. Rems, are both far to the right of Brewer, but don't have much money. However, Brewer ducked an Assembly vote on recognizing same sex marriages in Calif. That's good stuff for the right to toss at her. She's also MIA on Measure "S" (El Toro II - Orange Co.)...

☒ **52nd A.D.** - The Rev. Carl Washington's campaign released polling data on this OPEN seat primary. The survey was taken Dec. 13 & 16, among 400 likely Demo voters. Washington, who is backed by L.A. Co. Sup. Yvonne Burke, leads the field with 25%. L.A. Dep. DA Melinda Murray (daughter of Assemblyman Willard Murray) is at 12%; Lynwood school board member Cynthia Green-Geter 8%; Compton school board member Michael Hopwood 3%; and don't know at 52%...

☒ **48th A.D.** - Former L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley endorsed former L.A. Councilman Robert Farrell on Feb. 15th for the OPEN 48th A.D. Stay tuned...

COUNCILMAN FEUER AT L.A. SPEAKING FORUM.

L.A. Councilman Michael Feuer will discuss improving police protection when he addresses members of the L.A. Current Affairs Forum, 11:30 a.m. reception, 12 noon lunch, Mar. 7, Hyatt Regency Hotel, L.A. For info ☎ Emma Schafer (310)445-8862...

11th S.D. SPECIAL UPDATE: BAD NEWS FOR DEMOS, AS SHER USED STATE COMPUTER FOR CAMPAIGN.

Editor's note: In the battle to replace new U.S. Rep. Tom Campbell(R), the Demos got some bad news this past week. The huge headline in the S.F. Chronicle said it all: *Sher Confirms State Computers Used for Campaign*. The Sher is highly respected Demo Assemblyman Byron Sher of Palo Alto. Here's our brief report & analysis...

...CALPEEK sources believe this disclosure about Sher will have a major negative impact on his campaign to win Campbell's old State Senate seat, the 11th S.D., Mar. 26th. Up until this point, sources believed that Sher was a slight favorite to win the special over little

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known Patrick Shannon, Gov. Pete Wilson's Bay Area policy advisor. But with this disclosure --- and perhaps Shannon's ability to ***milk the story*** for several more days of negative headlines --- well, it's just not good news for State Senate Demo Leader Bill Lockyer, who is hoping to steal this seat away from the GOP...

...The story broke Feb. 13th. Here's what happened. The discovery was made after Sher turned over the Assembly Natural Resources Cmt. chairmanship to GOP Assemblyman Keith Olberg. During a check of some 1,300 committee computer documents, staffers found 3 documents that were political/campaign related and that's against the rules of the Assembly and State law. Sher says he was unaware that these materials were produced on a state computer...

...Sher put a letter of reprimand into to the file of the unnamed Demo staffer who was responsible and Sher said he will reimburse the State for the cost. But Shannon wants the FPPC involved --- for all too obvious reasons. That's smart politics. Stay tuned...

CA INITIATIVE UPDATE: 3 MORE MEASURES HIT THE STREET. PLUS A BRIEF UPDATE ABOUT NO ON #192.
Editor's note: Here's a brief update on some new measures which have been given the OK to collect signatures. There are now **39** measures in circulation. And we have brief update on the NO on #192 campaign. FYI: In order to qualify for the Nov. 5th ballot, initiatives should be submitted by Apr. 19th...

■ **Equal Opportunity. Prohibits Quotas. Permits Goals** is the official title of a measure that would prohibit CA public agencies from discriminating on the basis of age, race, sex, etc. etc. Statute. Sponsors: Rodrigo V. & Arnoldo S. Torres, Torres & Torres, 926 "J" St., Ste. 1016, Sacto 95814. Deadline: July 1...

■ **Frivolous Lawsuits. Attorneys' Contingent Fees. Limits** is the official title of another one of those "tort reform" measures put forth by The Alliance to Revitalize Calif. This measure declares itself in direct conflict with an initiative sponsored by the Consumer Attorneys of CA, which has already qualified for the November ballot. Tom Proulx is the sponsor of this statute. Deadline: July 1. Contact: PBN Co. (916) 444-2671...

■ **Taxes. Schools. Tobacco & Alcohol** is the official title of this constitutional amendment sponsored by former Assemblyman Mike Roos and his group, *Taxpayers for Public School Excellence.* This is the measure which will hike tobacco and alcohol taxes, with the funds going to a whole range of educational programs & projects. Deadline: July 1. Contact: Forde & Mollrich (714)476-9064...

...In last week's issue, we noted that there was no report for NO on #192. Wrong. On 12/31/95, *Californians for Transportation Solutions*, NO on #192, filed a report showing cash-on-hand of $3,821. The NO campaign is being run out of the Planning & Conservation League's Sacto office ☎ (916)444 - 8726, ext. 4 (Jim Knox, cmp. coordinator). The NO side consists of a number of environmental groups who are allied for the first time with Lewis Uhler's Nat'l Tax Limitation Cmt. The NO side's campaign letterhead says, "Stop The Highway Bond Hoax!" Hoax is such a great political buzz word. The basic argument by the NO side is that the interest paid on these bonds will amount to $1.4 billion over 20 years. The NO side says gas tax funds are the correct and more cost effective way to pay for seismic retrofit of highways and bridges. But without a much funding, the NO side might have a tough time getting their message out. Instead, they will go to editorial boards and make their case with the news media. Perhaps, if some money comes through, they'll have enough for radio. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '96: U.S. HOUSE PRIMARY CONTESTS.
Editor's note: Here are some odds & ends about various U.S. House races...

☒ **50th C.D.** - U.S. Rep. Bob Filner(D-San Diego), under siege from San Diego Councilman Juan Vargas, had his campaign phone CALPEEK after we ran last week's story about a survey done by Vargas, showing the councilman leading Filner by about 9 points. Filner has polling data too (Fairbank, Maslin et al, early December '95, 400 likely Demos). It too shows Vargas ahead, 38% to 33%. However, when a *push question* about abortion is added, Filner, who is pro-choice, jumps ahead of Vargas by a margin of 43% to 30%...

☒ **36th C.D.** - A few weeks ago we noted that GOP candidate Susan Brooks had been endorsed by 4 GOP Congress members from CA. That number has now

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jumped to 16, with reconfirmation from a number of lawmakers and some new ones as well. Among the new Brooks backers is U.S. Rep. Tom Campbell of Palo Alto. The irony is that Campbell is still friendly with his former campaign consultant, Ron Smith, who is running GOPer Irwin Savodnik's campaign against Brooks. FYI: In the all important money game, Brooks had cash-on-hand of $35,876, while Savodnik had $337,434...

☒ **20th C.D.** - U.S. Rep. Cal Dooley(D-Hanford) now has an official write-in challenger in the Mar. 26 Demo primary. The rival is 39-year-old Fresno businessman John Estrada. Does the name sound familiar? It should. In June of 1994, Estrada ran in the 20th C.D. primary as a Republican. He got 5,074 votes and finished 2nd to Paul Young. Stay tuned...

8th ORANGE CO. DEMO CONVENTION MAR. 1 - 2.
The 8th Bi-Annual Orange Co. Democratic Party Convention will be conducted Mar. 1-2 at the Inn at the Park, Anaheim. Speakers include Lt. Gov. Gray Davis, Controller Kathleen Connell, Senate Pres. Pro Tem Bill Lockyer and Clinton/Gore '96 Dep. Cmp. Mgr. Ann Lewis. For info ☎ Jeanne Costales (714)770-1926...

L.A. CO. DA'S UPDATE: GARCETTI STILL FAVORED.
There had been tons of hype for weeks about a vote being taken by the Assn. of Deputy DAs, the non-union association of prosecutors in the DA's office. The spin was this: there would be a massive vote of *no confidence* on the leadership of DA Gil Garcetti and this would hurt Garcetti's chances for reelection on Mar. 26. But when the results were finally announced on Feb. 8th, the incumbent didn't do as bad as predicted. 307 votes were cast against Garcetti, while 234 were cast in favor and some 45 expressed no opinion. That's about a 40% approval rating. And when it came time to see which candidate the Deputy DAs favored, Garcetti got 39.7%; Deputy DA John Lynch pulled 31.8%; Deputy DA Sterling Norris got 11.9%; Deputy DA Malcolm Jordan won 4.4%; attorney Harold Greenberg got 1%; and attorney Steve Zand struck out. 11.1% voted for none of the above or wrote-in other names. Again, that's not all that bad for Garcetti. Lynch's spin after the vote is that the results indicated that he, Lynch, was "the alternative" to Garcetti. FYI: another campaign report is due Feb. 15. Garcetti has been endorsed by ALADS, Assn. of L.A. Deputy Sheriffs, but the Assn. of Deputy DAs remain neutral. Stay tuned...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.
Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

- San Jose Mayor Susan Hammer(D) has been elected VP of Policy for the Nat'l Conf. of Demo Mayors....
- Timothy L. Coyle has joined the Calif. BIA has sr. staff vp for Govt. affairs - meaning he'll be the CBIA's chief lobbyist...
- S.F. Chronicle editorial page editor Jerry Roberts was promoted to city editor on 2/12/96...
- Jeff Snyder has been hired by L.A. based-Cerrell Associates, Inc. has Director of Communications. He had been VP of Communications for Tenet Healthcare Corp...
- Catherine Koseff Douglas, who was a key policy consultant to State Sen. Henry Mello(D-Watsonville), has been hired as president/ceo of Private Essential Access Community Hospitals, Inc...

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- **Headquarters Manager.** Job requires ability to work with volunteers and professionals. Computer knowledge and strong organizational skills a must. Long hours, hard work, good salary. Fax resume to (310)429-0385 or call Jerry Seedborg (310)429-3255...
- **Campaign Secretary.** Work with professional. Must be experienced in Word Perfect, Windows, Lotus 1-2-3 or Excel. Graphics experience helpful but not required. 9 to 5 OK. Fax resume to (310)429-0385 or call Jerry Seedborg (310)429-3255...

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